

and women in the 4th Congressional District to our service academies. Himself a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, his personal understanding of the critical requirements of military leadership has resulted in over 100 nominees succeeding at the academies and then as officers in our armed forces.

Supervisor Rodefer's life is marked by public service. From his 23 years of service with the United States Air Force to his eight years as County Supervisor, Karl has served the public with dedication and selflessness.

In addition to his service on a multitude of committees and commissions, Supervisor Rodefer has worked tirelessly to protect Tuolumne County's water resources, played an integral part in planning and future development of the Columbia Airport, was instrumental in acquiring grant funds to build the J.H. Dambacher Detention Center, spearheaded the County's Fire Safety and Community Resilience Initiative in 2019, and advocated for services for Veterans.

Karl Rodefer has been a sterling example of all that ought to be meant by the designation "public servant." I am proud today to congratulate Karl on his numerous accomplishments and to thank him for nearly a quarter century of commitment, dedication and service to the citizens of the United States and the residents of Tuolumne County.

RECOGNIZING DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CHAPTER 17

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 4, 2020

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize hard work and dedication of the local Disabled American Veterans Chapter in my district. The national organization was founded by veterans on September 25, 1920 and was officially chartered in 1932.

Our local chapter was established in 1971, primarily from veterans of World War II and Korea. Once facing dissolution, the DAV Chapter 17 bounced back and is now stronger than ever. This would not have been possible without the leadership of George Lindsey Jr., Don Parzanese, Bob Staranowicz, Jack Thomas, Tom Herron, Bill Severns, Lou Rizzo, and Kimberly Carter-Guerian. The Chapter works to support our veterans and the larger community through yearly events including job fairs, veteran ceremonies, and fundraisers. While Disabled American Veterans celebrates 100 years of serving veterans of the Armed Forces, their families, and survivors, we are extremely thankful for their commitment to helping veterans in need.

The DAV is dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity, their families, and survivors. Let us never forget the selfless sacrifice and dedication of all our disabled veterans across the country. In order to ensure that their memory is not forgotten, I include in the RECORD the names of all the current members of the DAV Chapter 17:

James F. Gartland, Robert A. Godwin, Leslie H. Goldstein, Edward T. Grabert, John P. Greer, Morris S. Guggenheim, James M. Haitsch, Charles G. Hall, Brain J. Hamilton,

Angela M. Hardy, Ronald J. Harkins, Thomas D. Herron, Daniel C. Haskett, Albert M. Hill, Timothy M. Holland, George K. Honer, Robert P. Hoopes, George W. Horne, George A. Ingram, Robert P. Joyce.

Gilbert Kasirsky, David C. Kline, Michael Krajnikovich, Daniel J. Kwiatkowski, Robert G. Larrisey, Joel Laskey, William Lee, Albert Paiste, Phillip Paoletta, Dennis Parker, Donald D. Parzanese, Noel G. Pelletier, Randy G. Phillips, Normand A. Picard, Francis X. Poole, Charles E. Quaste, William B. Redington, Edward D. Renner, Devon A. Richio, Lou Rizzo.

Brain M. Roberts, Larry F. Rodrigo, Edward A. Rosen, Ronald R. Rottloff, Amanda L. Rudolph, Joseph S. Runewicz, Alexander Rupeiks, John Schaefer, Bruce A. Sheeler, Richard W. Scholl, Lawrence M. Schorr, Robert J. Schulberger, Richard G. Scott, William J. Severns, Michael J. Shamp, Sharon Lynn Shaw, Otis L. Weathersby, William J. Wheeler, George K. Wiley.

Ian A. Woods, Todd E. Yanik, Douglas G. Yedinak, Ronald C. Zinzer, Fred Ewald, Gerry Albertson, Ronald Henry Alfors, Anthony Antonio, John W. Bader, Michael W. Barnes, Russell H. Bendel, James Howard Bergeson, Chuck Daniel Biresch, John A. Boccadori, Lawrence P. Booth, Martin M. Bradley, Mark Otis Bristow, David Bryk, Francis X. Buschman, Steve Calderbank, Paul J. Carsello, Kimberly Ann Carter, Sean W. Carty.

Demetrius R. Casillas, Fergus G. Castree, Thomas H. Chapin, Peter Chong, Theresa Colbert, Vincent A. Concordia, Mihael Wayne Corona, Stephen Cosminski, Francesco Cozza, John C. Craig, Richard E. Dalton, Herbert A. Dashiell, Thomas C. Day, Hugh F. Deithorn, James J. DelVecchio, Matthew P. Devlin, Anthony Dibilasio, Gary Lyn Dimaio, John L. D'Onofrio, Lawrence Duchnowski.

Darryl J. Dukowski, Alan G. Eck, Marcos Perez Elizondo, Orlando G. Epifano, Robert Errickson, Vincent Evangelista, Nelson Lewis Fairman, Joseph A. Farrugio, Joseph L. Felter, John P. Fernandez, Roy G. Ferrari, Robert J. Foley, Charles H. Fratz, Raymond A. Freiling, Henry Fretz, Lawrence A. Fulmer, Arthur T. Short, Hampton G. Silcox, Alfred E. Smith, Thomas J. Smith.

Robert I. Snovel, Edward L. Snyder, Stanley W. Stanwick, Robert Staranowicz, Martin Stern, Michael Ray Stever, Roy Stoker, Godfrey R. Strecker, Francis Tacey, Rudolph V. Taurino, Cindy Riley Ternay, John W. Thomas, David A. Thompson, Irvin P. Thompson, Joseph Troxell, Joseph M. Tyson.

Peter Paul Ulmen, Goline D. Vanderhoof, Atty T. VanHamel, Ronald F. Vellner, Donald T. Walton, Donald E. Libby, George Henry Lindsey, Hugh C. Liverman, Thomas A. Locke, William B. Luckenbill, Joseph T. Mallamaci, Anthony Lee Maniscola, F. Marciano-Rodriguez, John M. Marino, Anthony Thomas Mark, Gregory L. Marston.

Bruce B. Martin, Richard Matyskiela, Jean W. McGinnis, James Douglas McEwan, Richard P. McEwen, Richard Joseph McMullin, John Patrick Mowry, Daniel Moyer, Michael John Mullen, Ralph G. Myers, Norman B. Newbon, John J. O'Donnell, Jeffery T. Olavarria, Bruce Gary Onraet, Albert Ortiz, Donald S. Page, Robert T. Painter.

BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as an original sponsor and a senior Member of the

House of Representatives, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan bill, H.R. 1380, the "Big Cat Public Safety Act", which ends the ownership of dangerous big cats as pets as well as prohibits exhibitors from allowing public contact with cubs.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY for his leadership on this legislation.

Across the country, thousands of big cats like tigers, lions, leopards, and pumas are kept in miserable, insecure, and unsafe conditions by irresponsible owners.

These animals often come from a vicious cycle of breeding perpetuated by unscrupulous facilities looking to make a profit off of "cub petting" or photo opportunities.

It is an issue that causes immeasurable animal suffering and introduces inexcusable threats to human safety.

Big cats are wild animals and undoubtedly suffer when kept as pets.

They are often purchased as babies, and private owners are typically unable to manage them once they are fully grown.

As a result, the animals are frequently left to languish in grossly inadequate conditions, often being deprived of sufficient space, adequate veterinary care, a nutritious diet, and enrichment.

Furthermore, it is common procedure for some roadside zoos to inhumanely separate babies from their mothers, so that they can charge the public to pet and play with the cubs.

This is a cruel and unhealthy practice that can cause not only lifelong psychological problems but also premature death for the cubs.

These young cats quickly outgrow their usefulness in the cub handling industry and most often end up being sent to substandard "zoos," sold into the exotic pet trade, or possibly even killed and sold for parts.

This vicious cycle of exploitation and constant breeding must be stopped.

Currently, state laws regarding private ownership of big cats are inconsistent, and some states have few or no laws regarding the keeping of big cats.

Madam Speaker, a uniform federal law is necessary to end this dangerous industry once and for all.

The "Big Cat Public Safety Act" is a simple and straightforward solution to the devastating and growing crisis of negligent big cat breeding and ownership.

According to Big Cat Rescue, there have been more than 700 dangerous incidents in the U.S. involving big cats since 1990.

These incidents include hundreds of human injuries, maulings, and deaths.

In many of these cases, the animals were shot and killed, often by first responders who are not equipped to deal with these situations, thereby also putting them in harm's way.

Madam Speaker, throughout my tenure in Congress, I have been a staunch advocate for protecting endangered species, and this bill does that and much more.

For the safety of our first responders, of our community, and for these majestic animals, we need this vital piece of legislation.

I am honored to be a leader on this issue and on this bill, and so I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in voting for H.R. 1380, the "Big Cat Safety Act."